

HARI SINGH'S SUCCESSFUL REGIME

Was "Mr. A." of Notorious Robinson Divorce Case.

Arundel, Ind.—It is now a year since his highness Maharajah of Kashmir, Mr. Hari Singh—"Mr. A."—came to the throne. Ever since 1921 he was president of the executive council and had supported the cause of reform in every way. But since the disclosure of the notorious Robinson divorce case, he has been under a cloud and has been undergoing religious penance in order to appease his rigid orthodox uncles and his still more eccentric cousin of old Hindu pantheism.

Many were the almost unheard-of and curious customs in this border state of Kashmir, which had been ruled by the young Maharajah. It may be interesting to note that on the death of his old uncle, the chief executive officer of the state issued a general order of "Shudhan" or the shaving of the beard, the moustache and the head of every Hindu male over sixteen years of age on the tenth day after the Maharajah's death.

Debauched Swan Battalion. Then again among the various responsibilities which the Maharajah inherited was the special Swan Battalion of 300 swans, absolutely white, headed by a cream-colored one, a pet of the Maharajah, who believed them to be sacred birds belonging to Brahma, the creator of the Hindu religion. They had a special guard with swans as their emblem and the whole battalion was taken to the special island in the Maharajah's lake and escorted back to the evening. The roads on these occasions were closed to all traffic while the majestic birds waded forth.

Sir Hari Singh wanted to get rid of the swans, but the pundits forbade it, saying that they were sacred. Sir Hari turned the tables on them by making presents of them to all the old orthodox customs of his uncle. He had taken prominent part in making him do penance for his sin in England. He said that they were the custodians of the faith of his uncle and as a mark of royal favor he quietly distributed the swans amongst them, asking them to take special care of the sacred birds. This removed one of the stock attacks of the pundits, but decreased an enormous waste of police money on the upkeep of the swans.

One of the main departments of the state was forests. Kashmir is well known for its valuable forests, but the old Maharajah had given previous attention to them. Under Sir Hari Singh the situation improved and by the end of October, after a year of his rule, the department reported a profit of \$200,000 instead of a loss of \$200,000. The year previous control about 10,000 square miles of jungle, or over 100,000 acres.

Stops Waste by Fire. The villages used to burn large areas for making clearings to cultivate grain. Sir Hari Singh introduced forest tappings as a new industry and instead of the 100 square miles of forest burnt by villagers the year previous there was not a single square mile burnt during last year.

The strengthening of the forest department has resulted in stopping all smuggling and raiding and with the newly appointed staff of European officers, it is hoped that this will cease. These officers have been lent to the Kashmir state by the government of India and have been specially detailed for the purpose.

The young Maharajah has become the most popular figure in the state at the present time. Possessor of an almost untold wealth, his highness is the embodiment of simplicity in his personal life. He is wearing white European cloth and is dressed in the most modest of European attire.

He goes on observing all the old religious rites laid down by Hinduism, with punctilious regard for the old rite and ceremony. He went on a pilgrimage on foot to the Shri Nath's cave in the United Provinces accompanied by a large retinue and thousands of pilgrims and gave away valuable presents, including an all-gold coat studded with jewels valued at over \$25,000.

Baby Born on Liner to Have Free Ticket for Life

New York—Because Lydia Belach, also days old, was born at sea, she will be permitted to make a round trip to Italy free of charge any time she wishes. The child was born on the Conchita liner, Frontenot, Wilson, while her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Belach, were returning from Italy to Italy. When the vessel docked in Brooklyn, Giuseppe Conchita, New York head of the line, presented the parents with a certificate entitling the child to free travel because she was the first baby born on a Conchita liner in 1927.

Betting Tax Pays

London.—The betting tax which has been in force in England for 100 years has yielded \$1,300,000 for the first month.

Prince Likes Us

New York.—Prince William of Sweden likes us so well that he is almost inclined to take out first citizenship papers.

NEW FUEL STATION FOR NORTH PACIFIC

Stopover on "Great Circle" Route Provided.

Tacoma, Wash.—For the first time in the history of trans-Pacific shipping vessels of American steamship lines will be enabled to make a stopover along the "Great Circle" route to Japan and China by the establishment of a fueling station on Alaska Island, at the end of the long Aleutian chain.

One of the paramount advantages of a fueling station about half way across the ocean is the conservation of space for cargo. During recent months the American vessels have carried capacity loads and cargo often has been refused because of the necessity of resending empty storage for the enormous quantity of fuel required in the eleven to fourteen-day trip of constant steaming.

When the fueling facilities on Alaska Island are feasible the big ships need carry only enough coal and oil to reach the reserve supply there.

The United States navy has had a claim on Alaska Island for many years for the fueling and maintenance of its fleet of warships. In the case of its being used in peaceful operations, excellent quality of coal and possibly even oil may be found near Anchorage.

It is now known that coal exists on the island itself as well as on others of the Aleutian chain. Out on the end of the Aleutian Islands is Attu, the farthest west of the North American continent. When the summer's sun has set on Attu it is a claim on Alaska Island for many years for the fueling and maintenance of its fleet of warships.

As a further aid to navigation, it is planned to establish on Alaska a radio station located in a strategic position to maintain communication with ships in all parts of the north Pacific.

Counterfeiter's Error

Producers a \$15 Bill. Chicago.—Alfred Jones, a skillful engraver and printer, turned out perfect imitations of whisky and other labels that he even drank from the contents of a bottle bearing one of his own labels and spent several painful days recovering.

Then, when he emerged from the hospital he purchased a few blank plates and some suitable chisels and went to work on another project.

Two weeks ago the Department of Justice became aware that somebody was using counterfeit paper currency and secret service men traced it to Jones, who had made the fatal error of putting one of his new bills on his laundry.

New Machine Extracts

Oil From Shale and Sand. Washington.—A process which extracts valuable petroleum products from oil shale rock, oil-saturated sand, and surface bitumen has been devised by two engineers of the bureau of mines, C. P. Bowler and J. M. Givins.

Farmers to Tame Wild Berries of Far West

Woodburn, Wash.—Blueberries and their cousins, the huckleberries, are wild in the Pacific Northwest for ages past, but have been almost unknown to the farmer mission-aries and next will appear on the market as cultivated fruits. Demonstrations and experiments have shown these forest vines do much better under cultivation, fertilizing and tending to them.

Still They Come

Washington.—Radio broadcast stations keep on growing in number. The last compilation showed approximately 150 in the United States.

BUT SINGLE SHAKER LEFT IN OLD HOME

Pioneers Built Village After 1,000 Mile Walk.

Lebanon, Ohio.—A picturesque settlement which existed in Warren county for more than a century has finally broken up, and today there remains here but one member of the Shaker sect, a denomination that had its origin in 1800.

The remaining member of the Shakers is Elder James Penney, an aged man who has elected to spend the rest of his life in the community in which he was born and raised. In this tiny little town Elder Penney is surrounded by the old traditions of the sect, a denomination that had its origin in 1800.

The first Shaker settlement was founded near here in 1805 when a group of three men wearing broad-brimmed hats and dressed in the fashion of the early Quakers arrived at Turley Creek, four miles west of Lebanon. They had left New Lebanon, N. Y., the last day of January and had made the 1,000-mile journey on foot, stopping for a short time in Kentucky.

The Sunday after John Meacham, Benjamin Young, and Issachar Bates arrived they divided the land into two parts of Turley Creek church to occupy his pulpit. There followed a revival and the pastor and several members of his congregation were converted. "The United Society of Shakers" was organized here in 1807.

The popularity of the new sect spread rapidly. Within a month a dozen families had embraced Shakerism and had given their property to the church. Many who became members owned large tracts of land which they had consecrated to the use of the church.

In May, 1805, the society was duly organized at Union Village. As the years sped by the community prospered and gradually acquired more and more land. By 1820 there were 4,000 acres of some of the most valuable land in Warren county. The village extended about a mile along the street. The houses and shops were large, many of them of brick and all neat and substantial.

Curiously Garbed. The men wore gray long-sleeved, women at the village. The little girls dressed like their mothers and grandmothers. They wore long-sleeved white caps without ribbons or lace, except two pieces of white tape tying under the chin. Bows, neckties, and long hair were forbidden.

The people of this quaint village walked to church in single file, the men going in one door and the women in another. Before dancing, which was part of their worship, the men removed their coats.

In 1820 Union Village reached its zenith in population with 500 members. Every house was plain and painted brown; the walls white plaster. No ornamentation of any kind was allowed.

In the heads of the society in East Canterbury in connection with the remaining elders at Union Village. Elder Penney is virtually a recluse and about the only connection he maintains with the world in general is through his radio.

Bees Bring Wealth

Out of Vast Swamp. Waycross, Ga.—Though never fully explored by man, Okefenokee swamp, known to the Indians as the "Great Swamp," has been becoming a source of wealth for an industry of 400,000,000 may workers.

The last link of a 200-mile chain of beehives has just been completed within the 600 square miles of swampy land, located in southern Georgia and Florida. A beehive is abundant in these areas of swamps, gull berries, tupelo and black gum and red bay, the swamp now supplies a large part of the honey in eastern and southern markets.

Besides the treacherous earth, the keepers have other obstacles. Bees have learned to protect their appetites for honey. After smearing their bodies with resin from pine trees, the bees wallow in mud, driving themselves an armor the bees cannot penetrate.

VALUABLE FURS FROM FAR NORTH

Season in Alaska Is Reported to Be Good.

Seattle, Wash.—Smelling of the wilderness and the smoke of trapper cabins, large bales of valuable furs are being shipped from the far North-west to a reception by greedy fur buyers, representing a pelting market in New York and London.

There are thousands of musk, marten and ermine, large numbers of seal, lynx and beaver, four marten and wolf, with a heavy sprinkling of the various-kind furs.

Trappers report a good season in Alaska, Yukon territory and northwest Canada. Fur buyers increased the last year at an annual rate because of the abundance of hare, birds and other natural food sources.

The trapping season is about one-third over in Alaska and the Yukon, while in the Arctic regions it has just begun.

Prices for all kinds of furs are steadily with a tendency upward as is shown by the quality of the offerings. Practically all of the furs shipped here are dispatched at once to eastern manufacturing centers for immediate use. The amount of furs on land in Alaska shops in New York is the smallest in years, due to the heavy demand for garments so far.

The Seattle fur exchange held its monthly fur sale recently, at which time the largest number of furs were sold. Siberian furs were assembled from the coast of the Bering Sea and ran close to \$1,000,000.

This winter, despite buyers, the quality of furs is far above the average.

There is no slowing down in the demand for furs. Buyers expect high prices in retail centers.

South African Observer Finds Year's First Comet

Cambridge, Mass.—The first comet of 1927 was found by an amateur astronomer in South Africa on the eve of the first anniversary of his discovery. The comet, named after Dr. H. G. Wells, was discovered by Dr. H. G. Wells, director of the Harvard College Observatory, on Jan. 1, 1927.

When he located the new visitor on the morning of January 12, it was in the constellation of Bootes, which can be seen low in the south-western sky.

Astronomically its position at the time of discovery is expected to be about 45 minutes from the sun, and 20 degrees 45 minutes from the equator. It is moving to the southeast, which makes it lower in the sky for American observers, so probably no observers in the southern hemisphere will be able to see it at its best.

At Braintree, near Johannesburg, where the discoverer is located, however, it is now almost directly overhead at 10 o'clock, and should be seen to the best advantage by observers in the southern hemisphere.

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